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ACTION SCT-03

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-01	INR-05	SS-01	EB-01	NSCE-00
	ARA-01	NSAE-00	COME-00	SSO-01	L-03	CTME-00	NRCE-00
	TRSE-00	PM-01	PA-01	FAAE-00	CCO-00	INM-01	INRE-00
	CA-02	CG-00	OES-09	ACDA-13	A-01	USSS-00	JUSE-00
	FBIE-00	DOEE-00	M-01	DS-01	IMMC-01	OIS-01	P-02

/050 W

-----114100 242210Z /66

P 242105Z MAY 90
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5911
INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
USIA WASHDC 5836
CIA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PTER, PINS, EPET, CO
SUBJECT: TERRORISM: ELN BLOWS UP OIL PIPELINE SEGMENT

1. (U) THE ELN GUERRILLA GROUP BLEW UP A SEGMENT OF THE CANO LIMON-COVENAS OIL PIPELINE MAY 23, THE NINTH SUCH ATTACK THIS YEAR. THE ATTACK HAS INHIBITED PUMPING ACTIVITY, WHICH WILL BE RESUMED ONLY WHEN DIFFICULT REPAIRS ARE COMPLETED IN THE HARD-TO-REACH WOODED AREA WHERE THE SABOTAGE OCCURRED, KILOMETER 124.6 OF THE OIL
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PIPELINE, NEAR TOLEDO MUNICIPALITY (NORTE DE SANTANDER DEPARTMENT), BETWEEN THE BANADIA AND SAMORE PUMPING STATIONS. THE GUERRILLA BOMBING IGNITED A FIRE IN THE TUBING ITSELF AND AMONG THE SPILLED CRUDE, LESSENING THE

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J. OLSON
DATE/CASE ID: 30 OCT 2002 200201334

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DANGER OF SIGNIFICANT ECOLOGICAL DAMAGE.

2. (LOU) COLOMBIA HAS LOST 12 BILLION PESOS (3.5 USD MILLION) IN EXPORT REVENUES THIS YEAR DUE TO THE NINE TERRORIST ATTEMPTS AGAINST THE OIL PIPELINE, WHICH HAVE PREVENTED THE EXPORTATION OF 2.5 MILLION BBLs OF OIL. LAST YEAR'S TWENTY NINE ATTACKS SPILLED SOME 100,000 BBLs OF CRUDE COSTING USD 1.7 MILLION, CAUSED DAMAGES COSTING USD 13 MILLION, AND THE INDUSTRY LOST USD 10 MILLION IN EXPORT REVENUES. THERE HAVE BEEN A TOTAL OF 118 ATTACKS AGAINST THE OIL PIPELINE SINCE THE ELN CAMPAIGN STARTED IN 1986. SINCE THAT YEAR, REPAIRS OF SABOTAGE DAMAGE HAVE COST A TOTAL OF USD 29 MILLION DOLLARS, WHILE THE THE TOTAL CRUDE SPILLED HAS REACHED SOME 600,000 BBLs., A LOSS OF MORE THAN USD 9 MILLION. THROUGHOUT THIS FOUR-YEAR PERIOD, COLOMBIA HAS FAILED TO EXPORT A TOTAL OF 31 MILLION BBLs., WITH A VALUE OF MORE THAN USD 600 MILLION. THE ELN'S ANTI-OIL INDUSTRY CAMPAIGN IN 1990 ALSO INCLUDES ABDUCTION OF EMPLOYEES OF ECOPETROL, THE PARASTATAL OIL COMPANY, AND TAKEOVERS OF OIL CAMPS, SOME OF WHICH HAVE HAD TO BE ABANDONED.
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